

*The*

C. H. S.

# BANDWAGON

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MALOON BROS. CIRCUS  
See Story on Page 9

==== The Circusiana Magazine =====



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Founded in 1939

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lisher.

## PFENING ELECTED!

According to a report from Harry Simpson, Election Commissioner, we can announce that Fred D. Pfening, Jr. of Columbus, Ohio has been elected President of The Circus Historical Society. Pfening had received 104 votes as of the morning of December 13, out of a possible 211 votes. This insures his election.

In a telephone conversation with your Editor, Pfening expressed his thanks to all who voted for him, and promised that he would fulfill his pre-election statements as outlined in his letters to the members. We ask that each of you give him your undivided support for the prosperity and perpetuation of the Society.

In the races for other offices, Charles P. Fox is leading for Vice-President; Agnes W. King seems sure of re-election for Editor of the Bandwagon; the race for Secretary-Treasurer is very close, and shows Don Smith with 72 votes and Robert C. King with 71 votes.

Following is the tally as of December 13, with 161 ballots in. Please note that one ballot cast no votes for Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer or Editor of the Bandwagon, so those races show only 160 votes.

For President: Fred D. Pfening, Jr., 104; Bette Leonard, 57.

For Vice-President: Charles P. Fox, 50; Bill Kasiska, 36; John Boyle, 33; Don Smith, 21; John Sullivan, 20.

For Secretary-Treasurer: Don Smith, 72; Robert C. King, 71; Wally Ahlberg 17.

For Editor of the Bandwagon: Agnes King, 99; John Swann, 61.

As your apparently re-elected Editor, I wish to thank one and all for your confidence in me, and promise that I will make the Bandwagon a bigger and better publication in all ways.

AGNES W. KING

The HAGENBECK CIRCUS now known as the Willy Hagenbeck Circus is coming to the front again from their long absence on the road.

A. J. Ahrensmeyer, C. H. S. member of Madison, Wisconsin has just received a letter from his good juggling friend Max Koch with program enclosed from Germany. From the photos in the program they certainly prove they are putting on a great circus under canvas in Western Germany. Max's letter also states they are rebuilding the large Deutschland Halle that was bombed during the war. This huge building will be finished by Christmas, showing all new attractions including large circuses. This is good news for all show people.



# Two Little Ponies Meet Santa Claus

By Fred Bailey Thompson

This is the story of two little ponies and what happened to them on the night before Christmas.

Once upon a time there were two little ponies, one named Tom and one named Jerry. They had been on the Gentry Dog and Pony Show for about twenty years and were known to nearly every child where the circus played. Little girls and boys will always remember them for they were the lead ponies of six ponies that pulled that golden carved chariot down the main streets, loaded with twenty pretty Dalmatian or Coach dogs.

But now, Tom and Jerry had grown old and they did not have that beautiful black lustre and white markings and sparkling eyes as in their youth. On the circus when the animals get old and grey the circus does not sell or destroy them but, they are put in the menagerie where the people who come to the circus can see them because, they don't perform or go into the circus parade anymore. Tom and Jerry had reached this age and the children who knew them so well could always see them standing at attention in the menagerie tent dressed up in their bright brassy bridles and black plumes upon their little heads. Yes, Tom and Jerry were stationary on the circus. Each year they watched the circus pull out for the road leaving them behind at winter-quarters. This made them very sad because, they had always been so active on the circus but all they could do now was dream all summer long and wish for the day when the season was over and all their friends would come back to winter-quarters in the fall.

Yes, Tom and Jerry were just two little ponies that were retired from active circus life. While the circus was on the road they were turned into a beautiful pasture to graze and browse all during the summer months . . . just left to dream of happy days gone by.

The circus had been good to Tom and Jerry . . . the once bright stars of The Gentry Dog and Pony Circus . . . but alas no more. But they had a pretty pasture covered with lots of green grass and each spring their pasture would be filled with yellow Dandelions which blended with the beautiful green of the grass. These gold colored flowers made them think of the gold colored chariot they loved so well.

During the winter months they would stand in the sunshine and watch the painters putting new paint on the wagons and main tent poles. As they watched they would dream of the happy days spent as part of parcel of, to them, "The Greatest Show On Earth" . . . The Gentry Dog and Pony Show. They could stand all of this pretty well until they saw the painters start to freshen up the paint on

that beautiful golden chariot, the dog wagon and then it was more than they could stand because, that had been their wagon.

As they stood in the winter sunshine and watched, they thought of the days when their trainer and friend Fred Leonardi drove their golden wagon down the main streets and how, as he held all those lines in his hand and shouted, "Right Tom, left Jerry" and how the children who lined the sidewalks would cheer and call their names. But all the two little ponies were allowed to do now was to dream of their yesterdays because their todays had passed them by.

The circus pulled out and went on its winding road to play in most of the cities of America. But they were not gone for long . . . soon it was Thanksgiving. Tom and Jerry could feel it in the air and they knew it would not be long before the circus would be coming home to winter-quarters. Finally, the great day arrived and as their animal friends would take their places in the barn they would all stop to greet them. First, their pony friends. Tom and Jerry would bow and switch their little tails and as their friends whispered sweet things in their ears this made Tom and Jerry very happy. Next all four of the elephants came by to see them—Daisy, Maud, Trilby and Frances. As they neared Tom and Jerry's stall they extended their trunks and hugged them close then they ambled on down to their stalls and were staked out.

Fred Leonardi, their dearest friend and trainer, came by and gave each of them a big hug. Next came their friends, the coach dogs that they pulled through so many streets in their golden chariot. No, the circus would never forget Tom and Jerry. Like so many little boys and girls all over this country they also loved the two little ponies.

Soon it was getting close to Christmas and all the animals were feeling the Christmas spirit, even Tom and Jerry. All were waiting and wondering what old Saint Nick would bring them but little did Tom and Jerry know what part fate would play in their Christmas this year. They did not know that this Christmas they would give the greatest performance of their little lives . . . even greater than pulling the golden chariot in the parade or performing in the center ring.

Before they knew it, it was Christmas Eve. The circus quarters were decorated with holly and mistletoe and a large Manger had been placed at the entrance to the quarters depicting the birth of the Christ Child because, all circus quarters celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Soon it was almost midnight and Tom

and Jerry could hear the church bells ringing so they knew it would not be long before the circus had a visit from Santa. All the ponies were bedded down in their fresh straw . . . the dogs had new bedding and the elephants were swaying from side to side and some were asleep in their straw beds. The cats were blinking sleepy-eyed in their cages . . . the monkeys were real quiet. The children on the circus were tucked in bed dreaming of the things they would find under the tree Christmas morning.

But not Tom and Jerry, they were wide awake and hearing sleigh bells they knew it was Santa Claus. Tom said to Jerry "Lay down Jerry and pretend you are asleep because that's Santa Claus." As they listened they heard Santa say, "Whoa Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donna and Blitzen. Be still Donna and Blitzen. I know your feet hurt but maybe I can get two more reindeer from the circus to take your place until your hoofs get better." Then they heard Fred Leonardi's voice, "No Santa, I don't have any reindeer to take their place but I will loan you two little ponies to help you deliver all your presents. But on second thought these ponies won't be able to fly over the house-tops like your reindeer." To this Santa gave a merry Ho-Ho-Ho and said, "When I wave my magic wand these ponies will rise up and fly over the house-tops like my reindeer . . . let's see the ponies."

Then Santa and Fred came into the barn and walked over to Tom and Jerry and Santa exclaimed, "These will be fine and they are so pretty I will be proud to have them to go with my reindeer."

After giving all the animals their Christmas presents he visited all the children on the lot delivering their presents. After hitching Tom and Jerry to his sleigh he waved his magic wand exclaiming, "Away Tom, Jerry, Dancer, Prancer, Comet, Cupid, Dasher and Vixen . . . over the house-tops we shall go." This was quite a thrill for Tom and Jerry to be flying through the air. They waited on the house-tops for Santa as he slid down the chimney at every little boys' and girls' house and when he came up to the top again he would cry out, "Merry Christmas and away we go."

They visited many of Tom and Jerry's little friends homes and made them very happy. In the wee hours of Christmas morning Santa brought two little ponies back to the circus, tired, but happy because, of all the ponies in the world they, Tom and Jerry, were chosen to pull Santa Claus sleigh.

So they paraded once again, not down the main streets but over the house-tops at Christmas.



# GREETINGS

*from*

## CIRCUS HALL OF FAME

SARASOTA, FLA.

# GREETINGS

To

*All Our Circus Friends*



PEGGY and HARRY BAKER

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

To Circus Folks And Fans  
Everywhere

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to

Circus Fans & Circus People

PEARL MAGDEN

ELGIN, ILLINOIS



# Circus Wagon History File

By Joseph T. Bradbury



Elephant Tableau Wagon, Al G. Barnes Circus, About 1922

This is the second in our series of three articles dealing with tableau wagons featuring elephant carvings. The illustration shows the Al G. Barnes Elephant Tableau wagon in parade about 1922. Clowns are riding the wagon. I wish that a better photo could have been used but this was the best shot I have ever seen of this particular wagon, although I'm sure better shots must exist somewhere.

We commonly call this wagon the "Al G. Barnes Elephant Tableau". It was built in the Al G. Barnes winter quarters in Venice, California in the winter of 1920-21 and first appeared on the Barnes show in the 1921 season. The Bode Wagon Works furnished the carvings for this and other Barnes wagons about the same time, but the actual construction of the wagon and the placing on of the carvings was done by the Barnes blacksmith and woodworking crew.

The wagon served on the Barnes show for the 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924 seasons for sure and possibly longer. The Barnes show quit parading in mid-season 1924, the last parade being given July 14, at Denver. No parades were given in 1925 and following years, however the steam calliops was carried in 1925 and some claim they saw it on the show as late as 1928, and also the air calliops and some tableaux were carried in later years. Therefore there is a possibility that the wagon may have been carried in the years 1925-28, but I have not

seen it in any photos of the show in those years. I have good coverage of the 1928 show in photos and the wagon is not present. It is my opinion, and only an opinion, but 1924 may well have been the last year on the show for the wagon.

After Al G. Barnes quit parading the wagon now becomes "lost" until the elephant carving only shows up some 15 years later. Several old Barnes parade wagons remained for years and years at the old Venice quarters. Jimmy Woods had some at his lot in Venice as late as 1953 when it was sold and the wagons scattered, some being destroyed, others preserved at other locations to this day. The elephant carving off this tableau wagon was recovered from the Woods lot about 1939 and placed on the entrance gate to the World Jungle Compound at Thousand Oaks, California, near Los Angeles. This place has recently become known as "Jungleland", and the carving is still there. What happened to the rest of the carvings and the wagon itself is not known to this writer but can be safely assumed that they rotted away or were discarded at the Venice lot.

I am beginning to get some very helpful information from various fans and historians on some of the wagons we have discussed recently. One extremely valuable comment comes from W. H. Woodcock, noted elephant trainer and fellow CHS member. Woodcock also is the leading circus wagon historian in the country and I accept always his findings as being positive fact. Woodcock says

that the Sells-Floto Elephant Tableau discussed in the November issue was carried on the road by Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus in the 30's for several seasons during the time the show did not parade. The wagon was used as an elephant trapping wagon by Cheerful Garner. It was placed inside the menagerie, and the wonderful trapping and wardrobe man, Freddie Wells, kept the tableau as near immaculate as is possible with a circus. The wagon really fitted in good and looked like a circus sitting at the end of the elephant line. The wagon was there in 1935 and 1937 and the fact that it was kept inside the menagerie tent may be the reason why it shows up in very few photos of the show those years.

Woodcock further brought to my attention that the photo of the huge Lion Tableau wagon shown in the Sept.-Oct. issue was actually taken on the Martin Downs Cole Bros. Circus rather than on the Kit Carson Buffalo Ranch Wild West Show. The late A. Morton Smith who owned the negative had erroneously listed it as Kit Carson. Woodcock states that when the wagon got to the Kit Carson show a straight sun board at the top of the wagon replaced the small ornamental "risers" on the seat ends. I have a photo showing the wagon on Kit Carson Show in 1914 with the new type sunboard he mentions but had assumed the change had been made possibly between 1913 and 1914 season.



"It's All Right To Use Friendship As A Drawing Account,  
But Don't Forget Your Deposits."

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*A Merry Christmas and A Happy and  
Prosperous New Year*

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TO ALL CHS MEMBERS

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A Merry Christmas  
and A Happy  
New Year*

HERMAN J. LINDEN

AURORA, ILLINOIS

Director Division No. 5

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and

**All the Best for 1958**

To Circus People And  
Friends Of The Circus

DON S. HOWLAND



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THE THREE KINGS

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And A Wish That All Goes Well With  
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*My Pride and Joy 1955 Season*

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

*May The 1958 Season Be A Big One*

**FRED D. PFENING, JR.**

C.H.S. No. 36



## First in a Series of Articles About Old-Time Circus Owners and Managers

LEWIS B. LENT

Was, during the first half of the season of 1834, agent with June, Titus & Angevine's Menageries, and in August of that year he purchased an interest in I. R. & W. Howe's Menageries, considered one of the best in the country. From

1835 to 1838, inclusive, he was a co-partner of Brown & Lent's Circus, traveling by steamboat on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and exhibiting chiefly in New Orleans, La., Natchez, Miss., St. Louis, Mo., Louisville, Ky., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pa. From 1839 to 1842, inclusive, he became again associated with June, Titus & Angevine's Menageries and Circuses. In 1843 he became a partner in and manager of Rufus Welch's National Circus, and the following year was co-partner of Sands & Lent's American Circus, exhibiting in England. Returning to America in 1845, he became again a partner in and manager of Rufus Welch's National Circus. During the next three years he was co-partner and manager in three distinct shows, all newly fitted out—Van Amburgh's Menagerie, Sands, Lent & Co.'s American Circus, and June, Titus & Angevine's Menageries and Circus. The season of 1849 he passed in California. The following two years he was again a partner and manager of Rufus Welch's National Circus. In 1852 and 1853 he was partner with Seth B. Howes and P. T. Barnum, and manager of P. T. Barnum's American Museum and Menagerie, exhibiting



LEWIS B. LENT:  
(See Biography.)

among other curiosities, General Tom Thumb and ten elephants. During the next three years he was partner with Rufus Welch in the National Theatre and Circus, Philadelphia, Pa. The show was announced as Welch's

National Circus and L. B. Lent's New York Circus combined. Welch's wagons were painted with vermilion and Lent's Ultramarine blue. From 1857 to 1863, inclusive, he managed L. B. Lent's National Circus. The next three years he was the proprietor and manager of the Equescurriculum, New York Circus, Grizzly Adam's Bears, Ducrow's Trained Bull, Hurdle Buffalo and Troupe of Trained Dogs, Ponies and Monkeys. From 1865 to 1872, inclu-

sive, in the Fall and Winter he managed the New York Circus, in the Hippotheatron, New York City. In 1873 and 1874 he managed the New York Circus, Museum Circus Menagerie. In 1875 he was the railroad-agent of Howes & Cushing's Circus and Menagerie, and the succeeding year he held a like position with J. M. French's Circus and Menagerie. In 1878 he was the managing and railroad-agent of Van Amburgh & Co.'s Menagerie. In 1879 advance director for Adam Forepaugh, and at the end of the season revived the New York Circus at the Globe Theatre, New York. Died, New York, Nov. 29, 1887.

(This biography was condensed from material written for the NEW YORK CLIPPER by Charles H. Day. Furnished by Fred D. Pfening, Jr.)

### COVER PICTURE

Courtesy of F. C. Fisher,  
Peru, Indiana

This is a picture of Maloon Bros. Circus, out of Union City, Indiana in the 1920's, and this particular picture was taken in northern Ohio on August 20, 1923. The wagons in the picture were built by Sullivan and Eagle in Peru, Indiana for the Alderfer Show and when

these were taken back to Peru for want of payments, Mr. Maloon negotiated a deal with the builders and became their owners. I have been told these wagons were far too heavy for a wagon show and too light for a R. R. show. Mr. Maloon sold this show late in '25 to John Pluto from Baltimore, Maryland and the wagons were stored by this new owner in Ohio and as far as any one knows, no one ever went back for them.

### DEATH OF TWO MEMBERS

**George L. Chindahl**—81, national historian of the Circus Fans Association, at his home in Maitland, Fla., Tuesday (October 29). He was a patent attorney with the Chicago firm of Chindahl, Carlson, Pitzner, Hubbard & Wolfe until his retirement about 15 years ago. In the ensuing years he devoted most of his time to circus history and research. He was a regular contributor of articles to the CFA publication and a frequent visitor on circuses in Florida. The current issue of the White Tops carries an article he wrote. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Greene, and three grandsons, all of Pass-a-Grille, Fla. Burial was at Winter Park, Fla.

**David H. Lano**—83, life-time troupier with circuses and side shows as a puppeteer, at Flint, Mich., October 25, only eight days after his biography, "A Wondering Showman, I," was published by the Michigan State University Press. He had been with dozens of circuses, among them McMahon, Welsh, Sparks, Kit Carson, Howes, Nelson, Augustus Jones, Kelly-Miller, Mills and Beatty. Surviving are a son, Jack, a daughter, Masie, and a brother, Bert, all of Flint. Burial at Flint.

### NEW MEMBERS

Richard W. Collins ----- No. 646  
Garrison, Iowa

John J. Martin ----- No. 647  
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## CIRCUS PICTURES

1900 through 1957

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AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

FLOYD GETTINGER  
UNION CITY, INDIANA

Greetings From  
THE SAUK COUNTY  
CIRCUS BAND

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On The Lot In '58"

"WHITEY" SAYS —  
I'll See You in Baraboo

RAYMOND G. "WHITEY" WHITE  
RICHMOND, INDIANA

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And Showfolks Everywhere

BILL KASISKA  
VICE PRESIDENT C.H.S.





## HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

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P. O. Box 147

MOBILE 2, ALABAMA

SINCERE

## Holiday Greetings



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C. H. S.

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## Season's Greetings

— And May All Your  
Circus Days Be  
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TO ALL

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Best Wishes With Our  
Season's Greetings To All

*From*

**THE TRACYS**  
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# Christmas 1957

MAY YOUR HEART BE LIGHT . . .  
AND YOUR HOME BE BRIGHT.  
AS I WISH FOR YOU

## All the Joys of a Happy Holiday Season

There is something about the serenity of the Christmas Season that brings forth to me the full splendor of having friends like you. This friendship is the corner stone of our "Circus Historical Society". That, and the love of the Circus, the love I hold for my members, and the love they hold for me. It has enabled us to prosper and grow.

Thank you for your friendship, your confidence in me. I think that you deserve the finest that life has to offer.

THE WISH I SEND IS OLD, . . . THOUGH EVER NEW.  
YET IT COMES AT A VERY SPECIAL TIME . . .  
AND IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY.

## God Bless You All

Your President,

BETTE LEONARD